

R E S T

For a WEARIED SOUL,

Being, THE LAST

L E G A C Y

OF Mr JOHN BUNYAN of Bedfordshire, containing, His dying Exhortations to his Children of their Duty to GOD, to their Mother, and to one another, not long before his Death. His Godly Meditations, when he lay upon his Death-bed; all which are very pleasant to read, and profitable to practise; being of excellent Use for all Sorts of People, that desire to live a Godly Life in this present World.

The just Man walketh in his Integrity, his Children are blessed after him, Prov. xx. 7.

G L A S G O W:

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and sold at his shop near the middle of the Salt-mar-
ket.

Rest for a wearied S O U L,

O R, T H E

Pilgrim at his Journey's End.



His Admonition to his Children, of their Duty to G O D, to their Mother, and to one another. Wrote some Time before his Death, and afterwards found among his Writings.

MY children I must now leave you, I am going to a better place, my glass is almost run : I hope have made my peace with God ; I have fought a good fight, and have finished my course, and there is laid for me a crown of glory. In my youth I was as wild and ungodly I believe as most was, I spent my time idly, and never regarded what I did, so as I might please and satisfy my appetite : as to every particular of my life, it will be needless to nominate : and as to my conversion, you have read it in the book of my conversion. I have since my conversion, I thank God, taken great heed to my ways, I have lived as uprightly as I possibly could : for if I did any wrong, it was against my knowledge, I have wrote many good books, and have lived according to scripture rules, as much as flesh and blood was able ; I loved the worst of my enemies, who cast many false aspersions upon me to disgrace me, but thanks be to God, I owe no one any ill will, but heartily forgive all that have been my enemies, as I hope to be forgiven of almighty God. My dear children let me intreat you to be admonished by my words, and take my exhortations as a legacy, I having as you know very little else to leave you. 1st, Then let me put you in mind of your duty to God ; 2dly, your duty to your mother ; and 3dly, to one another.

First, *Of your Duty to G O D.*

Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you, Jam iv 8. This very exhortation of St James is enough to entice you, without any other. It tells you, that if you draw nigh unto God; he will draw nigh unto you, this is by way of paraphrase, if you love God he will love you, if you fear God he will defend you if you are willing to turn from your evil ways God will be willing to receive you: he desires not the death of a sinner; if you are not saved it is your own fault, and indeed this text comprehends a great deal of comfort, it brings glad tidings to a wretched sinner, it speaks peace to all: thus far by way of exhortation. 2dly, What your duty to God is, Fear God, and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man, Ecc. xii 3. There you see your duty, Fear God, and keep his commandments; fear to offend God and be careful to keep his commandments and that is your duty comprehended in short. Be careful to serve him, fearful to offend him, diligent to keep his laws, willing to keep his commandments, abide all his corrections with patience, murmur at none of his ways, live honestly, love all men, swear not, lie not, for the devil was a liar from the beginning, steal not, cheat not, take not the Lord's name in vain, have no other gods, covet not which is another man's, love the Lord with your whole heart, mind and strength, praise his name, bridle your lusts and unruly passions, resist the devil and he will fly from you, care not for the world and let your whole life be agreeable to God's word, suffer anything for your religion, nay dearth itself, die daily unto sin and live unto righteousness, and in all things submit to the will of God, draw nigh unto

God and he will draw nigh unto you. I conclude this exhortation with these following precepts, which if you do follow, you will do well.

1. Fear to do any thing against that God whom you love and you will not love any thing against that God whom you fear.

2. Let your prayers be as frequent as your wants, and your thanksgiving as your blessings.

3. In the morning think what ye have to do, for which ask God's blessing; at night, of what you have done, for which ask his forgiveness,

4. Take an exact account of your life, be not afraid to look upon the score, but afraid to increase it; to despair because a man is sinful, is to be worse because he hath been bad.

5. Consider the shortness of your life, and certainty of the judgment, the great reward for the good, and severe punishment for the wicked; therefore make even with heavenly repentance, at the end of every day, and so you shall have but one day to repent of before you die.

6. Do injury to none, for by so doing, you do but teach others to do injury to you.

7. Innocency will be your best guard, and your integrity will be a coat of mail to you, and he that dares to be wicked sometimes for his advantage, will always be so if his interest require it.

If you love God, keep his commandments, for they are not grievous as I have found by experience, Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you.

Secondly, *Your Duty to your Mother.*

Honour your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy

God giveth thee, is the fifth commandment of God ; and again, Prov. xiii 1. A wise son heareth his father's instructions, but a scorner heareth not rebuke ; and again, Prov. vi, 20, My son keep thy fathers commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother, Prov. iv. 10, Hear O my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of thy life shall be many. Here you may see that duty to your parents is a commandment of God, with his promise, that thy days may be many. Solomon the wisest man that ever was, or ever will be, in the next place gives you a character of a wise son, that is of a dutiful son, and of a scorner, that is of an undutiful son ; the wise son hearkneth to his father's instruction, he willingly obeys, he sighs and cries, Father I obey ; when he is commanded to go he runs, when to make haste he flies ; but the scorner when he is rebuked is angry, and ready to fly in his fathers face, when commanded to go he hides himself, when to make haste disdains and scorns to be spoke to. Consider my sons what I have said, and honour your mother, when I am in my cold grave, I give you this charge in the sight of God who quickneth all things and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate, witnessed a good confession, that you keep this commandment without spot, 2 Tim. vi 13. Remember what came of Absalom's undutifulness, 2 Sam. xviii. 9. and by that take warning.

Thirdly, *Your Duty to one another.*

BEhold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity, Psal. cxxxviii 1. My dear children let me admonish you, let there be no division among you, live together as one flesh, that in so doing you may please God, be a comfort to your mother,

be a good example to be others, and for ever happy: Remember the ill consequences of Cain's hate to his brother Abel, Gen. iv. 8. Take warning by others harms and you will do well: while others strive one against another do you strive to do good one for another, while others are at variance, do you pray one for another, while others revile one another do you comfort one another; while others act the part of Gain, Gen. iv 8, do you act the part of Joseph, Gen. xvi. 4.

Bear with each others infirmities, and either love the other as himself, then will you please God, and be blessed: mind what I have said, and lay it up in your hearts, and God give his blessing to it. I am now going to my father, and must leave you. I have kept the faith, and I hope we shall one day meet face to face in heaven, where pleasures flow in streams, in the presence of the Almighty, and joy for evermore, where we may freely take a turn in the golden streets of Paradise, and sing praise unto God for evermore, I have very little of worldly wealth to leave you, only this exhortation and my blessing. To God the Father, Son and Holy-ghost, be honour, glory and power for ever, and for ever.

My Children adieu.

A Copy of Verses that he made upon himself not long before his Death.

FOrbear fond man, and weep no more, 'tis vain,
 When heaven decrees, 'tis folly to complain;
 This worldly mass is subject to decay,
 And death and nature all thing must obey:
 The blushing rose smiles with the morning sun,
 Just then looks gay, now withers and is gone:
 The unthinking brutes, with sense alone possess,
 Obey and hasten to their common rest;

Nay this proud fabrick shall at last become,
 That ill shap'd chaos which it issued from,
 And primitive nothing shall to itself return ;
 Then why poor mortal dost thou weep and cry,
 Think what thou art, and be content to die.
 Pardon my sins almighty God I pray !
 Forgive me all, then take me hence way ;
 Pity my sorrow and relenting tears,
 O let my cry come to thy gracious ears
 Appease my conscience, wash my sins away,
 Remit my crimes, then strike this house of clay,
 Then my triumphant soul shall upwards fly,
 And leave with joy this worldly vanity.

Some of his Godly Meditations.

1. **N**O creature under heaven can afford my soul any comfort only thou O Lord of eternal glory only thou are the help of man, and the great physician of souls: thou bringest a man nigh unto death, and restores him to life again, that he may see his own weakness, and thy power; wherefore all love and praise be given to thee, O God.

2. O God, I extole thy sacred name tho' I am a wretched sinner and therefore unfit and unable to praise thee, according to thy worthiness, yet will I not cease to give thee thanks, to the utmost of my strength I will declare thy justice and mercies, and while I live I will praise thy name; I will always love, honour and obey thee, and at no time forget thy mercies.

3. As for man he is nothing but dust and ashes, a show of simple seed, and a slip of slender strength, a bubble, a chaos of corruption, and branch of fading flowers a frame of most frail flesh, whose life is but a span, and full of misery.

5. O heavenly father, let me not forget my own frailty let me consider what I am, and always remem-

ber what I should be, then shall I forget to love myself, and long after the love of thee. I am made after thine image, though the falling from thy commandments hath soiled me sore with sin.

5. My sins O Lord ly forth in plenty before thy face, I can turn no way but they pursue me, I would intreat thee to pardon them, but I dare not draw near unto thee for fear of them, consider my necessity, most mighty God, and deliver me for thy dear sons sake.

6. Altho' my sins be as the sands of the sea, and mine offences be more in number then the hairs of my head, yet take thou not vengeance, O Lord, but as thou hast many times shewed mercy, so now be gracious and forgive me, for I know tho' my sins were as red as scarlet, yet thou canst make them as white as snow: Therefore, O Lord, to thee be glory for ever and ever.

7. I have hungred, O my God, to feed upon thee that art the bread of life, not with the jaws of my flesh, but with the mouth of my faith, until it may please thee to feed me at full with the entire contemplation of thy substance, which I shall see face to face, and also be in the celestial glory, when I am discharged of this house of clay, and mass of corruption this hope is the harlour of my delight, and the end of all my trouble. Hasten therefore, O Lord and shake my glass, that the sand of my life being run out, I may live with the souls of just men made perfect, where I may sing praise to thee forevermore, world without end, *Amen*.

8. Most gracious God, give me to drink of that water, that whoso drinketh therefore, shall thirst the more after the sweetness of heavenly things, whose taste is unspeakable pleasant; and give me also to drink of that water, that whoso drinketh thereof shall thirst no more for ever, for it floweth from thee, the fountain of immortality. To thee, O Lord, all praise and glory be.